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principle treated is amply illustrated by excerpts from the addresses of distinguished speakers.

Prayer in War Time. By W. Robertson Nicoll. New York: Doran, 1916. Pp. viii+187. \$1.00.

This volume contains sixteen articles, reprinted from the *British Weekly*. The initial article gives the title to the book, which is not a treatise on prayer, but contains the reflections and judgment of Dr. Nicoll on various questions that are raised by the Great War. The two notes which strike us most frequently in this book are the author's timeliness and tenderness. His titles almost always are fascinating; here he is at his best. Note, "The Rocks Are Not Burning," "To the Quiet in the Land," and "When the Wounded Go Home." Dr. Nicoll gives wise and urgent counsel to country ministers as he urges them to hold in simple trust to the divine verities and promises, while they keep the thought and life of the parish centered upon Christ. Dr. Nicoll is a brave comforter in dark days, and his sympathy sometimes becomes almost a sob. This book lets one into the meaning of England's suffering in these dark days; but it is an England "saved by hope."

A Fire in the Snow. By Charles Edward Jefferson. New York: Crowell, 1916. Pp. 48. \$0.50.

A satisfactory Christmas booklet is hard to find. The danger of running into sentimental piffle is not easily avoided. Dr. Jefferson shows here his usual good sense and insight. The Christian spirit, he says, is like a fire kindled in the snow by a group of boys. One feels the light and warmth of Christmas as the figure is handled with skill.

Method in Prayer. By W. Graham Scroggie. New York: Doran, 1916. Pp. 172. \$1.00.

The Lord Bishop of London writes the preface to this practical volume on the method of prayer. After a short chapter on the practice of prayer, the author gives practical counsel concerning adoration, confession, petition, intercession, and thanksgiving. There is a final chapter on the study of prayer. A treatise like this ought to give, not only directions, but encouragement and new ideals in reference to prayer. The chapter on confession may be taken as a fair example of the author's success. He treats the matter at sufficient length; he quotes from the Psalms and from the "Devotions" of Lancelot Andrewes; he lays strong emphasis on the ethical results of confession. The author's personal experience in receiving

answer to prayer (p. 78) must not be pressed to universal application. The following is good: "The last thing we think of putting into prayer is brainsweat, but they who would accomplish most must apply themselves most" (p. 154). The author is less practical in suggestion than we had hoped from the title of his book.

On Being Divine. By Marion Le Roy Burton. Boston: Pilgrim Press, 1916. Pp. 22. \$0.50.

President Burton publishes here the Baccalaureate sermon to the class of 1916 in Smith College. It is an earnest message, sound in thought and lofty in style, and will make an excellent gift book at graduation time. The title conveys a clear idea of the substance of the sermon.

The Humble Annals of a Back Yard. By Walter A. Dyer. Boston: Pilgrim Press, 1916. Pp. 155. \$1.00.

This is a delightful book on the rewards and satisfactions of cultivating a back yard. Bits of shrewd philosophy are neatly tucked away in the descriptive sections. The creed of the Flower-Lover is beautiful, especially the concluding paragraph. Mr. Merrill's illustrations are in good taste. The volume will be an appreciated gift to a friend who owns a back yard.

Idle Words. By Raymond Calkins. Boston: Pilgrim Press, 1917. Pp. 36. \$0.50.

Dr. Calkins, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, understands the problems and moods of students. He speaks plainly here concerning four current "idle" phrases, "Everybody does it"; "Get by"; "I can't help it"; and "What can I do?" One feels like living more energetically after reading this strong plea for manly action.

The Christian According to Paul. By John T. Faris. New York: Association Press, 1916. Pp. 129. \$0.50.

This is one of the books in the "Everyday Life Series," which the Association Press is publishing for use in study classes, at family worship, and in private devotion. There are thirteen chapters. Each chapter contains well-chosen daily Bible readings with remarks, a comment on the topic, and suggestions for further study. The author commands an unusually wide range of illustrative material, which he uses admirably. The book suits its purpose excellently.